

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAN JO 00890 032337Z

17

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-02 LAB-04 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-01 TAR-01

TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 FEA-01 OIC-02

AF-06 EA-06 EUR-12 NEA-09 /117 W

----- 001422

R 032155Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9512

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 00890

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 SAN JOSE 0890

GUATEMALA ALSO FOR ROCAP

7. THE U.S. IS NOW TESTING THE WATER AND PRESUMABLY WILL
CONTINUE TO DO SO AT THE IA-ECOSOC MEETING. IF THE TIDES
APPEAR TO BE RUNNING STRONGLY AGAINST THE TRADE ACT, U.S.
INTERESTS WOULD PROBABLY BEST BE SERVED BY A FURTHER STONG PUBLIC
DEFENSE OF THE TRADE ACT INVOLVING A CLEAR AND HARD-HITTING
ATTACK ON THE DISTORTIONS THAT HAVE BEEN CREATED (ALONG THE
LINES OF OUR REPLY TO THE MEXICANS - REF B). SUCH ACTION
WOULD DEMONSTRATE THE DEPTH OF THE U.S. FEELING AND GENERATE
ENOUGH HEAT TO CAUSE PARTICIPANTS TO FOCUS ON THE REAL ISSUES
AND THINK ABOUT THEM ENOUGH TO REALIZE THAT MANY OF THE
ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE ACT ARE IN FACT DISTORTIONS,
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PAGE 02 SAN JO 00890 032337Z

8. IF A CONFRONTATION WERE TO DEVELOP AT THE IA-ECOSOC MEETING THE COSTA RICANS WOULD BE LIKELY TO STRIVE FOR, OR SUPPORT, SOME KIND OF COMPROMISE (PERHAPS ONE THAT FAVORED VENEZUELA ON ATMOSPHERICS BUT THE U.S. ON SUBSTANCE). BUT, IF THE TIDES ARE RUNNING AGAINST THE TRADE ACT, AND IF THE VENEZUELAN ATTACK IS STRONG AND THE U.S. DEFENSE IS MILD AND HALF-HEARTED, THE COSTA RICANS ARE LIKELY TO ASSUME THAT IT IS SAFE FOR THEM TO LINE

UP WITH VENEZUELA ON THE BASIS OF LATIN AMERICAN SOLIDARITY.

9. OUR BEST GUESS WOULD BE THAT NO CONFRONTATION WILL BE

NECESSARY AT THE IA-ECOSOC SESSION AND THAT THE EVENTUAL OUTCOME OF THE DISPUTE IN LATIN AMERICA OVER THE TRADE ACT WILL BE THAT THE LATIN ACTIONS WILL DEMONSTRATE A MEASURE OF SOLIDARITY IN ACCORDING LIP SERVICE TO THE VENEZUELAN POSITION WHILE LEAVING THOSE WHO ARE INTERESTED FREE TO BENEFIT FROM THE PREFERENCE OFFERED BY THE TRADE ACT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRADE LAW, MEETING AGENDA, INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, MEETINGS, REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SANJO00890
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P750067-1393
From: SAN JOSE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750390/aaaaddhw.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 35333, 75 STATE 34414
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 SEP 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <09 SEP 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: U.S. TRADE ACT
TAGS: ETRD, PFOR, CS, US, IA-ECOSOC, OAS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006